

**STILLWATER COUNTY
COMMISSIONER MINUTES**

<p>Notice: These minutes reflect the proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners. The official minutes are on file with the Clerk and Recorder MCA 7-4-2611(2)(b).</p>
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REGULAR MEETING

April 27, 2021

PRESENT Commissioner Mark Crago, Chair, Commissioner Steve Riveland, member; Shannon Fisher Admin Assistant.

Others Present: Dana Weatherford, Weed Department; Bill Pronovost, DES; Chip Kem, SCSO; Jerry Friend, Treasurer; Mark Schreiner, Road Dept.; Emily Schabacker, Stillwater County News; Citizens: Shirlee Keffer, Karla Johnson and Carrie Van Hoosear.

PLEDGE Commissioner Crago opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES None presented

CLAIMS None presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Commissioner Crago announced that the CDBG public hearing is at 2:00 p.m. today. Beartooth RC&D will help conduct the public hearing and answer questions as to what the CDBG grant funds can be used for.

CONSENT AGENDA **Commission**

- A) Columbus Water User's Association 2021 Assessment for Water Use
- B) Beartooth Front Zoning Decision Letter
- C) Absarokee Wastewater System Work Change Directive No. 1.

Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to consent to the consent agenda. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. Discussion – Emily Schabacker asked what is the Columbus Water Users Association. Commissioner Crago explained that the county property north of the interstate has ditch rights, so the county is now part of the Columbus Water Users Association and this is part of the annual assessment for water rights for that ditch. Emily Schabacker asked what the work change Directive No. 1. Commissioner Crago explained that when one of the old buildings from the sewer lagoon was removed, there was a concrete basin found beneath it that was not in the specs to be removed. This created a \$2250.00 change to remove and dispose of the concrete structure that was found beneath the building. Motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR BUSINESS **Economic Development**

A) Maintenance agreement with Montana Interactives, LLC. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve the maintenance agreement with Montana Interactives, LLC. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. Discussion – Emily Schabacker asked what this is. Commissioner Crago replied that Montana Interactives runs our burn permit system and the county's online portals for the permit processes and various county programs. Motion passed unanimously.

Weed District Board

A) Shane Creek Weed Management Area Contract – Noxious Weed Trust Fund. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve the Shane Creek weed management area contract noxious weed trust fund. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. Discussion – Dana Weatherford explained that this is a fifty percent cost share grant that has fifty percent paid by

the state and the other fifty percent is paid by the landowners. The weed district administers the grant process in writing and gives a status report in the fall. The district was re-upped for more funding this year and will probably be the last round of funding for that area so the district can move forward and apply for grants elsewhere in the county. Emily Schabacker asked if there was a dollar amount for that area. Dana replied that the amount awarded from the state was \$22,500.00 and that amount is a match which the landowners must also match. The project total is \$45,000.00. Motion passed unanimously.

Commission

A) Appointment to Beartooth Parks & Recreation Board for one unexpired vacancy, term expiring May 2023. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve the appointment to the Beartooth Parks & Recreation Board for one unexpired vacancy, term expiring May 2023 to Richelle Kelly. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Appointment to Compensation Board for one unexpired vacancy, term expiring April 2023. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve the appointment to the Compensation Board for one unexpired vacancy, term expiring April 2023, there were two applications, one from Tonya House and one from Dustin Davis, Commissioner Riveland moved to appoint Dustin Davis to this position. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Road & Bridge

A) Appoint viewers and set a public hearing date for the proposed abandonment of County Road #7. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to appoint viewers and set a public hearing date for the proposed abandonment of County Road #7, the viewers would be Tyrel Hamilton, Heidi Stadel with Mark Schreiner as staff and to set the public hearing on May 25th, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. Discussion – Shirlee Keffer asked if there is a map. Commissioner Crago replied that there is a map available in the abandonment folder. The road is in the Rapelje area close to Gee Road. Shirlee also asked if this happened to have anything to do with the wind farms. Commissioner Crago replied no. Shirlee asked if there will always be a public hearing if you propose to close a county road that is not maintained. Commissioner Crago explained that the standard practice is that a petition is presented by landowners to abandon the road and the Commission sets a public hearing date to take public comment on the petition and based on comment the Commission will make a decision. Motion passed unanimously.

B) Appoint viewers and set a public hearing date for the proposed abandonment of County Road #82. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to appoint viewers and set a public hearing date for the proposed abandonment of County Road #82, the viewers would be Tyrel Hamilton, Heidi Stadel with Mark Schreiner as staff and to set the public hearing on May 25th, 2021 at 9:45a.m. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. Discussion – Shirlee Keffer asked to see the map for the abandonment. Commissioner Crago pointed out the section for the abandonment on the map. Motion passed unanimously.

C) Closure of Johnson Lane Bridge. Commissioner Riveland **MOVED** to approve the closure of Johnson Land bridge. Commissioner Crago **SECONDED**. Discussion - An unidentified individual asked if that is the bridge in Absarokee. Commissioner Crago replied it is just outside of Absarokee and is currently closed due to the box culvert replacement project. During the project construction, someone drove on the bridge with a load that was overcapacity and there was some structural damage and the bridge is no longer safe. The new bridge replacement project is due to start July 1, 2021. Due to safety concerns the bridge will remain closed. The bridge will be closed until completion of the new bridge. Shirlee Keffer asked what is the timeline of the replacement. Mark Schreiner responded that the project is due to start July 1, 2021 and be completed by November of 2021. Commissioner Crago asked Mark Schreiner for an update of the box culvert project and when that road will be opened. Mark Schreiner responded that it is supposed to be done this week but that is not definite. There are issues with water and compaction around the box culvert. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON COUNTY BUSINESS – Shirlee Keffer stated that after reading the Treasurers report from last week’s agenda, the amount was a lump sum of 52 or 54 million, does this encompass all the county funds and she would like to know the breakdown of the general funds, capital improvement funds, school district funds and any other special accounts that the Treasurer holds in that lump sum. Shirlee stated she is asking this because when you are looking at the facility building, how much money do we have available in the capital improvement fund so that we do not have to borrow money for the beginning of the first project. Jerry Friend offered to print the report for Shirlee showing the details of all the accounts. Shirlee stated that it would be beneficial for anyone going online to look at how much money our county has to have that broken down rather than think that the county has all this money when it is not all the county’s money because some of it belongs to the school district and the cemetery district and it would be a clear transparency to, we the people.

With no further comments heard the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

APPROVED BY: /s/ Mark Crago, Commissioner Chairman
ATTEST: Heidi L. Stadel, Clerk and Recorder